

Frequently Asked Questions

Regulatory Amendment 1 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Dolphin and Wahoo Fishery of the Atlantic (Regulatory Amendment 1)

June 30, 2016

What would Regulatory Amendment 1 do?

Regulatory Amendment 1 would establish a commercial trip limit for dolphin of 4,000 pounds whole weight after 75 percent of the commercial sector annual catch limit (ACL) has been reached. The trip limit would remain in place until the end of the fishing year or until the entire commercial ACL is met, whichever comes first.

Why is Regulatory Amendment 1 needed?

The commercial trip limit would reduce the likelihood of an early closure of the commercial sector for dolphin. The 2015 commercial Atlantic dolphin season closed on June 30, 2015, because the commercial ACL was met. As a result, federal commercial dolphin permit holders were no longer able to harvest and sell dolphin. This was the first time the commercial season for dolphin had closed.

When does the comment period end?

The proposed rule published in the *Federal Register* on June 30, 2016 (81 FR 42625) and the comment period ends on August 1, 2016. All comments specifically directed toward the regulatory amendment or the proposed rule will be addressed in the final rule.

How do I submit a comment?

- You may submit comments by either of the following methods. Comments received through other means may not be considered.
- Electronic Submissions: Federal e-Rulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=NOAA-NMFS-2016-0033>, click the “Comment Now!” icon, complete the required fields, and enter or attach your comments.
- Mail: Karla Gore, NOAA Fisheries, Southeast Regional Office, Sustainable Fisheries Division, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505.

Where can I find more information about the amendment?

- Dolphin Wahoo 1 is available on line at: NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office Web site: http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/s_atl/dw/2016/reg_am1/index.html or, the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council Web site: <http://www.safmc.net/>

- Contact NOAA Fisheries Southeast Regional Office
 - By Mail:

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263 13th Avenue South
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 - By FAX: (727) 824-5308
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